



**United States Agency
for
International Development
Mission to Bangladesh**

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Denise Rollins

**Mission Director
U.S. Agency for International Development, Bangladesh**

Denise Rollins is USAID's Mission Director in Bangladesh. She arrived in the country in August 2007 and has extensive development experience in Africa and the Caribbean. Bangladesh is her first assignment in Asia.

Ms. Rollins provides executive leadership to USAID's largest development program in South Asia. In 2008, USAID's economic development program totals \$115 million and supports a robust set of activities in Bangladesh that include strengthening democratic institutions, promoting broad-based economic growth (including economic policy, energy and the environment), expanding services in maternal and child health, family planning, infectious diseases control and HIV/AIDS prevention to the poorest populations, enhancing pre-primary education, and providing humanitarian relief and disaster preparedness and mitigation assistance. About half of USAID's program in Bangladesh funds a large food aid program.

Ms. Rollins joined USAID as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in 1987. Her first overseas assignment was in Jamaica where she served as a Project Development Officer designing private sector activities focused on agricultural exports and small and medium enterprise development. She later became a Program Officer and served in Ghana, Uganda and Nigeria. As a Program Officer, Ms. Rollins was responsible for strategic planning, program budgeting, performance monitoring and results reporting, and program evaluations in some of USAID's largest development programs in Africa. She was Acting Deputy Mission Director at USAID/Nigeria for more than a year and Deputy Mission Director at USAID/South Africa for three years until 2007. In South Africa, Ms. Rollins oversaw development programs addressing health, education, local government service delivery, and private sector development. She also jointly oversaw USAID's largest HIV/AIDS program in the world, funded under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Rollins was the Senior Program Officer at the African-American Institute organizing short-term professional development programs for African leaders. She also served as a Legislative Assistant for two members of the U.S. Congress, and as a procurement agent for a Nigerian trading company based in London and exporting aviation equipment, medical and laboratory supply, rural electrification and construction equipment.

Ms. Rollins earned a Masters of International Public Policy degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), majoring in International Economics and Finance. She earned a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Economics at Howard University and also attended Wayne State University College of Pharmacy for four years. She is a native of Detroit, Michigan and married to a U.S. Foreign Service Officer currently serving in Bangui, the Central African Republic. They have a teenage son.

Ms. Rollins has received numerous awards, including the C. Herbert Rees Memorial Award for Program Management Excellence and the Agency's Superior Honor Award. She has volunteered her time to serve on several international school boards in Ghana, Uganda and Nigeria, including for several years as the President of the Board of Directors for the American International School of Abuja (Nigeria). In Washington, DC she served as the President of the Board of Directors of Washington Inner City Self-Help.